

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:
a surface having a plurality of cells, each cell in said plurality having a
corresponding plurality of nanostructures disposed between said surface and
5 an electrolyte fluid;
an altering substance disposed on said surface; and
means for contacting said electrolyte fluid with said altering substance
in at least a first cell in said plurality of cells in a way such that, upon
contacting said altering substance, at least a portion of said electrolyte is
10 substantially altered.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for contacting
comprises means for decreasing the angle of contact between said electrolyte
and said nanostructures in a way such that said electrolyte penetrates said
nanostructures.
- 15 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said means for decreasing
comprises means for applying a voltage to said nanostructures.
4. An apparatus for neutralizing an electrolyte fluid comprising:
a surface having a plurality of cells, each cell in said plurality having a
corresponding plurality of nanostructures disposed between said surface and
20 said electrolyte fluid;
a neutralizing substance disposed on said surface; and
a voltage generator for applying a voltage to said nanostructures,
wherein, upon said voltage being applied to said nanostructures, the
angle of contact between said electrolyte and said nanostructures decreases
25 in a way such that said electrolyte penetrates said nanostructures, thus
contacting said neutralizing substance.

5. A method for altering an electrolyte liquid in a battery, said battery comprising an electrode, said electrode comprising a surface having a plurality of nanostructures disposed thereon, said surface divided into a plurality of end-of-life cells, said method comprising:

- 5 selectively passing a voltage across a portion of the nanostructures in said end-of life cells in a way such that said electrolyte fluid penetrates said nanostructures and contacts a altering substance on said surface.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said altering substance comprises a neutralizing substance.

- 10 7. A method for altering an electrolyte liquid in a battery, said battery comprising an electrode, said electrode comprising a surface divided into a plurality of end-of-life cells, said method comprising:

- selectively passing a voltage across a portion of said surface in said end-of life cells in a way such that said electrolyte fluid contacts an altering
15 substance on said surface.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said altering substance comprises a neutralizing substance.